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THE LIFE OF *Michael Adrian* De RUYTER ADMIRAL OF HOLLAND.

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THE LIFE OF Admirall *De Ruyter*.

ARts in all ages have had their Chiefs and Grandees, who by inventing of new, or improving of old devices, have been esteemed whilst alive, and renowned after death. And as their attempts were no otherwise to be valued but as the prevailing *genius* of their times weighed the uses of them; so several ages according to their predominating measures, have placed,

or diſplaced their Artiſts in the *Olaſſis* and Regiſter of fame; which ought indeed to be the Royal Standard of ſuch Worthies praiſe; though fond Poſterity either over-affected with the advantages of their own, or not throughly informed of the uſefulneſs of elder-atchivements, do for the moſt part unjuſtly rank the Illuſtrious of former times in that order; that theſe have the precedency who ſeem moſt to favour the prerogative of the preſent applauded practices: when antiquated contrivances being tryed by a true ſurvey of their profitableneſs when they Flouriſhed, and the advances they gained beyond their reſpective Predeceſſors, may appear to have made as high a riſe above their antecedent hints, as our Great Guns excell the Roman battering Rams, or our roaring Trumpet-ſpeaker, old bauling *Stentor*, who now with the great Heroes

roes of distant ages are sent again to School,

Ut pueris placeant & declamatio fiant.

The Masters of the Military Art as well as others, being obnoxious to this severe and partiall Judgement, the contemporaries of great men have in all ages laboured to vindicate the honour of their Heroes, by bringing to a fair tryal of their Countrey, the attainments and feats of such as they (the only competent Judges) thought worthy to be listed in the Roll of Fame: and to crown them with such Verdant Bayes as nothing but a hotter season of newer attempts, and more-taking discoveries, could ever blast or wither: And as careful Navigators in coasting of new-found Lands, or Ingenious Painters at the view of some rare and surprising beauty, fail not to make

ſome tranſient deſignes of the new objects ; that either misfortune might not altogether deprive the world of them, or that the curioſity of others who ſhould have better opportunities might be raiſed to finiſh and compleat their intended draughts: So in all times ſome have been, who have left to poſterity the true and natural proportions and more diſcernable lineaments of the actions of famous men, which others who lived nearer them might fill up and imbelliſh with the ſeveral colours and ſhaddows of ſmaller occurrences. Now ſince our Age hath brought forth as many (if not more) Inſtances of this nature, then any paſt, and rewarded them with as ſuitable honours and titles, as the moſt triumphant times whatſoever : I thought it not amiſſe at this time, when every little Ale and Coffee-houſe *Virtuoſo* comes bluſtering upon

upon us from the preſs; to give the world a view of the Life and Death of the late Renowned Sea-General *Michael Ad. de Ruyter* Lieutenant-Admiral of the States of the United Netherlands, whoſe rare Endowments and memorable Exploits have rendred him parallel to his moſt famed Competitors, and the high pitch to which he grew from ſo low a root, more conſpicuous then all: wherein if every little period of the ſeveral viciſſitudes and changes of his fortune, be not ſo diſtinctly and punctually handled, as might be expected from an exact Diary, or *Memoires* (which is not the intent of this Treatiſe;) yet the more obſervable Circumſtances of his whole life, partly from Relations of his own mouth, and partly from the authentick Teſtimonies of Witneſſes & Records, ſhall be faithfully collected to the ſatisfaction of every Reader.

DUring the Wars betwixt the Spaniards and Dutch in *Flanders*, there ſerved for ſome years the States of *Holland*, in quality of a private Trooper (a ſtranger by ſome judged a ſcottiſh man, ſo little known by his family, that his profeſſion gave him his Sirname,) the happy Father of this brave man; who (being disbanded from, or diſpleaſed with that courſe of life;) with his wife, his only then childe *Michael Ad. de Ruyter*, born to him at *Fluſhing* in *Zealand*, (the ſubject of this preſent Diſcourſe,) and ſervingmaid, being the whole of his Family, retired himſelf to a Countrey-houſe at two miles diſtance from *Bergen ap Zome*, and there to the quieter employment of a husbandmans life: where by his induſtrous endeavours, with two horſes, the greateſt part of his ſubſtance, in the uſuall labour of

of that Countrey, he ſupplied the wants of his family with care and pains: but neither the lowneſs of the poor mans fortune (which commonly begets either contempt or pity) nor yet the priviledge of his perſon, as having ſometime ſerved under the ſame Enſignes; could ſecure him or his beaſts from the violence of licentious Souldiers: his two horſes are taken from him by force; and carried to the Dutch Camp in *Flanders*, by ſome of the Troopers of that Army: this loſs was too conſiderable to be neglected by him, who thereby ſaw himſelf and family utterly ruined: He therefore haſtens after them to the camp; but finding his addreſſes for juſtice fruitleſs, by the delays and neglect of the Officers, and being well acquainted with the proceedings of looſly diſciplined or ill-paid Armies, where the Commanders

either ſhare in, or connive at the rapine of the Souldiers: he reſolved on a ſpeedier and more effectual way of reparation, by ſtealing from robbers what they had unjuſtly forced from him: And ſo having diſcovered where his horſes were at graſs, watching his opportunity, he ſecretly conveyed them away, and left them in a place ſomewhat remote from his own houſe, where he judged them fartheſt from danger, foreſeeing (as indeed it happened) that theſe new Maſters would not fail to look after the ſtrays. The ſouldiers miſſing there booty, and concluding that the owner had them, returned in the night with a purpoſe to finde them at his houſe; but being by his provident care diſappointed; in barbarous revenge they ſet on fire the poor ſingle thatcht Cothouſe about the ears of the helpleſs Inhabitants; In the horrour of this ſudden ſurpriſe, whilſt

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the father, mother and ſervant ſave themſelves, by breaking through the mercileſs flames, with that care of ſelf-preſervation, which is common to all creatures, and aſtoniſhment, uſual in ſuch unexpected frights; the poor harmleſs childe the future darling of *Neptune*, lay at the mercy of devouring *Vulcan* faſt aſleep in an upper room, ſwadled in his cradle; but the flames of Parental love towards an only childe, ſtronger than thoſe of fire, ſoon ſcorcht the mothers heart with ſo great apprehenſions of the danger of her Son; that aided by that providence which ſaved the Children in the fiery furnace, with more than maſculine courage, ſhe threw her ſelf into the houſe again, to ſave or die with that childe, by whoſe life and death fortune had decreed her honour: and having in her petticoat,

through ſmoke and flames, got into the upper Room, firſt threw the childe out of the window into a ſheet held by the father and maid to receive him, and afterward jump't out her ſelf, ſaving from that little *Troy* her young *Æneas*. So croſs and unlucky are many times the beginnings of virtuous Men, and low the *baſis* of Fames *Pyramides*, miſery being commonly the firſt ſtep to happineſs, and a gloomy morning the portal of a fair day: Having thus happily avoided the Fury of this cruel Element, though ſtript of all, naked as truth it ſelf, the diſconſolate Father in this ſo great uncertainty, finding no other hopes of relief but the Charity of the Merciful, betook himſelf with his wretched Family to *Bergen ap Zome* the next Town of Note, where arriving early in the morning, he preſented to his compaſſionate

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Countreymen a lamentable ſpectacle of his new diſaſter:

The commendable care of that Countrey in providing for the Neceſſities of the indigent, either by maintaining of the infirm and impotent, or by imploying the ſtronger and thoſe that are able, to work: afforded means for the poor man to ſubſiſt and feed his family; untill his young ſon being grown up to the ſtate of a boy, able to do ſomewhat for himſelf, was placed in the rope-ground of the Heer *Lampſon* in *Fluſhing*, a conſiderable Merchant; who had a Manufactory of Ropes there: The poor childe complying with the condition which he could not alter, with ſeveral other boys of his own rank and age, diligently followed his buſineſs in ſpinning of rope-yarn, and other drudgeries of that vocation to the content of his Overſeers; until ſome time after,

after, the Heer *Lampson* himself coming into the rope-ground, and eying the lad; his fancy suggested to him (observing the features and carriage of the boy) the unsuitableness of that trade to the *genius* of the lad: and finding upon examination the forwardness of his wit, and confident readiness in his answers, and his willingness to leave that course, and to serve him in some other capacity; he released him from that slavery, and sent him to school; where in a short time he gave such pregnant proofs of his parts and industry, that his Master finding his proficiency ripe for employment, prudently at first intrusted him with the charge of keeping of the accounts of his family-expences, that so he might the better have a tryal of the youths abilities, and prevent the errours, into which higher advancement

vancement and diſtance of place often miſleads unexperienced beginners ; imitating herein the example of Falconers , who uſe firſt to call their hawks to their fiſts with a guard , before they venture them at large to the lure : In this office he carried himſelf with ſo great fidelity and diſcretion , and thereby gained ſo great eſteem from his Maſter ; that he advanced him to be his book-keeper , and to the management of his Merchant-affairs : wherein being likewiſe much ſatisfied with his skill and diligence ; he pitched upon him as a perſon every way qualified for a Factor in his trade in *Ireland*, which conſiſted in butter, herrings, tallow and hides : and accordingly ſent him to *Dublin* ; There he lived ſeven years under the inſpection of Mr *Cremor*, Mr *Vanhorn*, Mr *Wiborn* , and ſome others of his Maſters

Maſters Correſpondents; during which ſpace, beſides his attaining of the Engliſh Tongue (very neceſſary to him who was afterward to treat ſo often with the Engliſh in their own Language,) he gave ſo great proofs of his dexterity in the conduct of affairs of Trading, and of his faithfulneſs to his truſt, and thereby ſo much content to his Maſter and Correſpondents; that by them he was ſent into the *Streights*, to negotiate as *Supercargo* of their Concerns there. And whilſt in his ſeveral Voyages from Port to Port in thoſe parts, he ſucceſsfully improved his traffick to the profit both of his Maſter and himſelf; being a natural enemy to idleneſs, and an Unactive life, and totally averſe from the lazy and bruitiſh revellings of the moſt part of Seamen; he had leiſure to rub up thoſe few impreſſions and hints

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of the Mathematicks, and particularly Navigation, which he had learned when a boy: wherein by the ripeneſs of his wit, his conſtant pains and ſtudy, and the aſſiſtance of ſome Artiſts, in a ſhort time he made ſuch laudable progreſs; that he not only became able to conduct any Ship himſelf, but obtained a great Name amongſt Navigators. And having afterward made ſeveral Voyages into the *Streights* and *Barbary*, upon the account of the Heer *Lampſon* his Maſter and Benefactor, with conſtant good fortune and applauſe, he married a Widow, and ſetled himſelf in *Fluſhing* in *Zealand*.

The many good ſervices which he had performed to his Maſter, and the reputation gained in his Sea-expeditions, began to plain the way to his preferment: In the year 1650. the dayly dammages received from the *Corſairs*

of

of *Argiers*, the enemies of the *Hollanders*, being ſo ſenſible, that thereby the *Mediterranean* Trade, of great advantage to that Nation, was much obſtructed: the States (for the ſecurity of their Merchants) reſolved to ſend Convoys with their Ships: the Heer *Lampſon* laying hold of this opportunity to ſerve his Countrey, and at the ſame time to ſhow his love and gratitude to his friend, by the cheapeſt, and yet moſt noble way of reward; ſo effectually recommended Mr *De Ruyter* to the *States General*, that he obtained for him a Commiſſion to be Captain of a Man of War appointed by them, as a Convoy for their Merchant-men in the *Streights*, thoſe fatal Narrow Seas, the Hercules-pillars of his life and honour, where he began and ended his Sea-preferment; and gave the firſt and laſt proofs of his Conduct and Valour.

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In this expedition he had the Occaſion to lay the foundation of his future greatneſs, firſt, by rendring himſelf remarkable in his Command, and next in his Eſtate, the two uſual handmaids of riſing fortunes: for as by his Valour and Conduct in many ſucceſsful Engagements with theſe Pirates, he procured the one, ſo by his lawful and honeſt endeavours, he miſſed not of the other. Inſomuch that his Name being grown publick in *Holland*, by the dayly characters of thoſe who had been obliged by his care and good offices; the States began to think him worthy of ſome higher rank.

The Occaſion was not long wanting to his more proſperous fortune, For in *anno* 1652. the equal ſucceſs of the two Neighbouring Common-wealths of *England* (then too unhappily eſtabliſhed) and the States of the

the *United Netherlands* more deeply rooted; began to advance to the incompatible heighth of Superiority (which was as much as Supremacy) their pretenſions on the Seas: And although their claims were as different as that of an old poſſeſſor from a new intruder; yet the younger Rival the *Hollanders* thinking their power not inferiour to the other, the *Engliſh*, who upon the account of long and uninterrupted poſſeſſion, demanded of them the uſual ſubmiſſions: reſolved to diſpute the right by force of Arms, and ſo broke forth a War; which for the eagerneſs of the parties, the frequency of engagements, and the undaunted conſtancy of the adverſaryes whilſt it laſted; may juſtly take place of all which before that time enobled the Ocean. Now was Captain *Michael Adr. De Ruyter* (ſignalized for his good ſervices

ſervices in the Mediterranean, and eyed by the States as a perſon fit for greater action) called home: And whilſt Old Admiral *Van Trump* (after the engagement on the nineteenth of *May*, 1652. with General *Blake* off of *Dover*-rode, the firſt action of hoſtility in this war, where he was defeated with the loſs of two Ships and many men) was equipping and preparing in *Holland* his Fleet, and broom to ſweep the Seas; *De Ruyter* with a ſquadron of Fifty Men of War was ſpeeded out from *Zealand*, to Convoy the Merchant-men to the Weſtward out of danger; and to ſcowr the Seas of the Engliſh; who on that ſide rendred the Navigation unſafe: This great Fleet firſt appearing off of *Bright Hamſtead* in *Suſſex*, where they forced aſhoar, and took ſeveral Barks, continued their courſe Weſtward by the back of the

the *Iſle of Wight*: Advice of this being brought to the pretended Parliament of *England*, Sir *George Ayſcue* who then Commanded a Fleet of fourty Men of War in the Weſt about *Plymouth*; was ordered to ſtretch over the Channel towards the Coaſt of *France*, to hinder, or at leaſt diſpute them their paſſage: this he accordingly obeying, on the ſixth of *Auguſt* 1652. the two Fleets came in ſight; and about four in the afternoon, to blows; and here continued a ſharp Fight, bravely maintained on both ſides, till ſeparated by night, both lay by: But *De Ruyters* chief buſineſs being to ſecure his Merchant-men, and Sir *George* not thinking it convenient to renew the Engageiment: he carried off his Fleet without loſs of a Ship.

The States acquainted with his good Conduct in this Firſt Expedition,

pedition, appointed him his ſtation in the mouth of the Channel, to ſtop and ſeize all Engliſh Ships homeward or outward-bound: There he diſcharged an Engliſh Ship that he had taken, upon condition that the Maſter ſhould acquaint Sir *George Ayſcue*, that he ſtayed for him, and would be glad to ſee him: but Sir *George* knowing well the prudence and valour of the Commander, and the humour of the *Dutch*, not raſh to run any apparent risk only for oſtentation of bravery, his own Fleet being inferior in number; and having received no new Orders from his Maſters; returned no anſwer: This brisk carriage won *De Ruyter* a ſingular reputation of gallantry and good conduct from the States-General, but in particular manner from the States of *Zealand*: In this ſtation he continued cruiſing, till *De Witt* with another conſiderable

derable Fleet from *Holland* joyned him, on the Twenty fourth of *September*; and having received ſix Plate ſhips with their convoy whom they expected from *Cadiz*, they both together ſet ſail homewards.

General *Blake* returning with the Engliſh Fleet from *Plymouth* towards the *Downs*, diſcovered the Dutch Fleet commanded by *De Witt* and *De Ruyter* riding at the back of the *Goodwin-Sands*, after that they had ſent their charge into *Holland*; *Blake* reſolved to have engaged them, but the winde blowing hard hindred his attempt then untill afterward; the ſeaſon being more favourable on the Twenty eighth of *October*, with three Squadrons of Ships he made up to them; but finding them ſo well protected by the Sands amongſt which they rode, and having run aground the *Sovereign* and *Reſolution*, (which were

were preſently got off again) in his too raſh approach with the great Ships, he was forced to deſiſt. *De Witt* and *De Ruyter* in the entry of a War being aſhamed thus to be braved, voluntarily left their advantagious ſtation, came forth and fought the Engliſh; but with ſo great loſs, that notwithſtanding all the courage and conduct employed by the two Admiralls during the action, they were forced to run, leaving many Ships burnt and ſunk; and were purſued by the Engliſh within twelve Leagues, E. S. E. of the *Maes*, on the Coaſt of *Holland*; till with the remainder of the Fleet ſhattered and torn *de Wit* and *de Ruyter* got into *Goree*. The *Hollanders* imputed their ill ſucceſſe in this Fight to the over-match of the Engliſh, and the cowardiſe of ſome of their Captains, who did not fight; but experience hath

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ſince demonſtrated, that the prudent uſe which the cautious *De Ruyter* made of the misfortune, was never to forſake an advantagious ſtation till a more advantagious opportunity of fighting offered.

This Defeat ſpurr'd the *Dutch* on revenge: For on the Nine and twentieth of *November* following, old *Van Trump* and Vice-Admiral *De Ruyter* with a Fleet of Eighty Men of War, and Ten Fire-ſhips put to Sea again, and finding General *Blake* at his ſtation with a number far inferiour, not much exceeding fourty Sail, but with equal reſolution to fight: *Van Trump* and *De Ruyter* made up towards him, and he not ſhrinking, there began a hot and bloudy combat, obſtinatly maintained for ſome time; but the diſparity of number being unreaſonably great, the Engliſh were routed, and the Garland-Frygat taken: In this Fight *De Ruyter* ſuſtained much dammage

dammage in his Ship, and loſt many men, having been obſerved as forward in the Engagement as any, and as long in action.

The Dutch in the mean time kept the Seas, cruiſing in the Channel off of the *Iſle of Wight*, whilſt *Blake* impatient of long delay, having with great expedition fitted and reinforced his Fleet: the Eight of *February* 1653. ſet ſail from *Quinborough* with ſixty Men of War, intending to joyn twenty more at *Portſmouth*. Theſe keen Competitors ſeemed only to withdraw a little, and take breath, that with greater force, and fury, they might renew their onſet, as it proved ſhortly after: For *Van Trump* being ſailed according to his Orders to the Weſtward, to attend and Convoy a Numerous and Rich Fleet of Merchant-men, coming from the *Streights*, and other Southern parts; and on

the eleventh of *February* General *Blake* having joyned the *Portſmouth* Fleet at *Beachy-head*, he ſailed the height of *Portland*, and there lay croſs the *Channel*, expecting the coming of the *Dutch*: On the Eighteenth, about break of day, were diſcovered *Van Trump* and *De Ruyter* with their Fleet, to the number of between three and four hundred Sail, Men of War and Merchant-men: The Engliſh ſtoutly bore up and engaged them, and were with no leſs valour received by the Dutch; but *Blake* reſolving to make them ſenſible, that it was not their courage, but number, which had given the Engliſh the former ruffle; preſſed them with ſuch irreſiſtable courage and force, that they were forced to run, and with great loſs to get home; yet the conduct and courage of *Van Trump* and *De Ruyter* was ſo remarkable in bringing off

off the Merchant-men; that both merited and received ſpecial and publick thanks from the States.

By this time the Hollanders having by freſh experience learned the danger of tempting the Lion even in his den, reſolved no more to hazard their Merchant-men in the Channel; but judged the fartheſt way about to be the neareſt way home; and ſo having ordered them to return by the back of *Ireland* and *Scotland*; Leiutenant Admiral *Van Trump* and Vice-Admiral *De Ruyter* were ſet out from the *Texel* with Eighty Men of War to meet and Convoy a Fleet of Two hundred Sail of Merchant-men coming that way from *France*: which being ſucceſsfully effected without interruption from the Engliſh then in the *Downs*, they kept out at ſea expecting their Enemies. The Engliſh then being commanded by a tri-

umvirate of Generals of equal and joynt authority, *Blake*, *Dean*, and *Monck*, on the ſecond of *Iune*, came in ſight of the Dutch Fleet, and about eleven or twelve of the Clock engaged them. It was fought till night with much blood and fierce reſolution; but the Engliſh accuſtomed to victory, having loſt *Dean*, one of their Generals, plyed them ſo warmly, that they thought it ſafeſt to fly to *Blanckenburgh*; General *Monck* purſuing them at the heels to ſeven fathom water. During the whole fight Vice-Admiral *De Ruyter* and Rear-Admiral *Lawſon* on the Engliſh ſide, having ſingled themſelves out, fought ſingly with ſuch courage and emulation as might be expected from two Commanders of ſo much Fame and Honour.

Hardly can there be ſhown greater ſtruglings for Victory, or

or ſtiffer ambition for greatneſs, than appeared in the Dutch, during all this War; who the more they were beaten (like balls againſt a wall) the ſooner they rebounded: About the latter end of *July*, *Van Trump* and *De Ruyter* from *Zealand*, and *De Witt* from *Holland*, ſet out again to ſea; and being joyned, made up a Fleet of Ninety Sail of Men of War, and ten Fireſhips. General *Monck* with a Fleet far leſs in number being then abroad, the twenty nineth of *July* towards night came up with them: but the Maſter of his Ship fearing the enemies Fireſhips, and adviſing him not to venture an Engagement, the General in anger, and in terms more of a ſtout Commander, than expert Seaman; bid him *Turn again*: And ſo with prodigious courage gave them their laſt, and moſt fatal defeat, in theſe their Wars with

the Commonwealth of *England* : wherein beſides the loſs of Twenty ſix Men of War , their Admiral *Van Trump* ended his daies ; and of all the Flagſhips of their Fleet only that of *De Ruyter* had the fortune to come into Port with the Flag ſtanding.

After the death of *Van Trump* , *Opdam* was made Admiral in his place , a Land-Souldier and Officer of Horſe ; the States probably thinking, that by matching the quality of their Admiral with that of the Engliſh General *Monck* ; they might equal their fortune : *De Witt* Vice-Admiral , and *De Ruyter* Rear-Admiral of *Holland*. But whilſt the *Dutch* are fitting for new action , though with ſomewhat ſlower procedure than formerly, their heat and ſtrength being much, cooled and abated ; there ſtarts up in *England* a new Statholder ; *Oliver Cromwel* General of the Army

Army made Protector of the Common-wealth. This New Uſurper, knowing that his authority being forced, violent, and againſt nature, needed greater confirmation and ſupport, than he could expect from the free and voluntary obedience of an overpowered people: and the States general finding themſelves much weakened by the paſt War, they both underſtood one another ſo well, and their ſeveral intereſts, that about the latter end of *January* 165$\frac{4}{5}$. a peace was concluded betwixt them, which at that time ſtopt the troubled humours, but removed not the cauſes of relapſes.

After this peace, *De Ruyter* tranſports himſelf with his Wife, Son *Engell De Ruyter*, two daughters, and the reſt of his family, from *Flushing*, where he had formerly lived, to *Amſterdam*, as the place of his fu-

ture reſidence, and more conſpicuous ſtage of Honour: but here he had hardly warmed his new Houſe, when the States found new buſineſs for him in the *Old Streights*. The Pirates of theſe Seas after their wonted manner ſo incommoded Navigation in theſe parts, that *De Ruyter* with a Squadron of Men of War in *anno* 1654. was ſent by the States to ſuppreſs and tame their inſolency: In his Voyage thither he friendly met with his ancient enemy *Blake*, who then was in the *Streights* with a Fleet of Ships upon the account of the Protector and Commonwealth of *England*; where they ſaluted each other, ſhook hands, and parted in very good terms; and *De Ruyter* continuing his courſe to *Argiers*; in a ſhort time ſo humbled the *Corſairs* of that place, *Tripoli* and *Tunnis*, that he brought them to a peace, though

though of ſhort duration, and ſo with honour and applauſe returned back again to *Holland*: where ſhortly after a greater field of honour was deſigned for him.

Men that would be great and rich by hook and by crook, by potching, and fiſhing where ſometime they ſhould not; firſt grow envious and pettiſh, and then angry and quarrelſome with their thriving Neighbours. In the year 1657. the Victorious Arms of *Swedland* had lodged themſelves in the very heart of *Poland*, threatning danger if not ruine to that Kingdom. The States of *Holland* fearing leſt the proſperous ſucceſs of that Crown with which their friendſhip and correſpondence was always doubtful and uncertain, might keep bread from their butter, and much damnifie their traffick in the Baltick Sea: perſwaded

the King of *Denmark*, their ancient Allie, who had more reaſon then force, to break with *Swedland*, promiſing him all aſſiſtance to regain from that King what he had wreſted and detained from him ſome years before: This inſtance of the States-General ſo prevailed with him, that he declared War againſt the King of *Swedland*, and invaded his Kingdomes; wherewith the *Swede* being allarmed, was forced to leave *Poland*, and with all his forces return home againſt the *Dane*.

The bad ſucceſs which the *Danes* had in theſe Wars both by Sea and land, obliged the States of *Holland* to put a Fleet to Sea under the command of Admiral *De Witt* to aſſiſt them in the *Sound*; But his Fleet being by the *Swedes* there routed, the Admirals Ship the *Bredrow* ſunk, and *De Witt* himſelf either killed or drowned:

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a freſh Recruit was diſpatched with Admiral *Opdam* to re-inforce their Fleet: *Opdam* arrived in the *Sound*, but finding himſelf too weak to encounter the enemy; was forced to ſecure himſelf and Fleet in *Copenhagen*, then blockt up by the *Swedes* with a ſtrait Siege, both by Sea and land: The King of *Swedland* in the mean time hearing of greater preparations in *Holland* for a ſtronger Fleet to be ſent under the command of *De Ruyter*, whoſe conduct and fortune was more apprehended then that of the others, ordered his Miniſters in *England* vigorouſly to proſecute with the Uſurper *Oliver*, their inſtances for aſſiſtance: This they ſo accompliſhed, that the intended ſuccours (his death preventing) were by him recommended to the care of his Son *Richard*, the ſhort Succeſſour to his Uſurped authority: *Richard* with the conſent of

of the then pretended Parliament, for that end, and for the ſecurity of the Engliſh Trade in the *Baltick*, in the beginning of the year 1659. ſent the brave General *Montague*, afterward Earl of *Sandwich*, with fourty Men of Warr well mann'd, and ſome Fire-ſhips, who on the twenty ſeventh of *April*, arrived in the *Sound*: Shortly after came alſo *De Ruyter* with a ſtrong Fleet from *Holland*, whoſe preſence relieved *Copenhagen* and *Opdams* Fleet; For the *Swedes* not being able alone to come to a try-all, the Engliſh refuſing to fight until they were ſatisfied in ſome demands, and the news of the alteration of Government in *England* (*Richard* the Protector being turned out of power) ſupervening at the ſame inſtant, which called them home again, relieved the Beſieged, and hindred a new rupture betwixt the *Engliſh* and the *Dutch*, which in all probabi-

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lity muſt have immediately enſued.

The King of *Denmark* by this timely ſuccour revived, and the Engliſh Fleet returned to *England*, and *Opdam* to *Holland*; *De Ruyter* with the *Dutch* and *Daniſh* Fleet continued Maſter of the Seas, ready for ſome Land-undertaking, ſince the *Swedes* (then too weak) declined all engaging at Sea: The Iſland of *Funnen* in the *Baltick Sea*, of the ancient inheritance of the *Danes*, but then in the poſſeſſion of the *Swedes*, being taken by them ſome years before, offered a neceſſary occaſion: And for that purpoſe General *Schaack*, with ſeven thouſand men, being put aboard of the Fleet at *Kiel*, were by *De Ruyter* conducted; and on the laſt of *October* landed at *Kortemundor*, in the Iſland of *Funnen*: The *Swedes* made brave reſiſtance; but *De Ruyter* diverting their Forces, with alarming at the ſame time other

other parts of the Iſland, and with a ſtout example, he himſelf ſtanding in the water, encouraging the Souldiers to land, whom in great numbers they poured aſhoar; The *Swedes* were overthrown with great loſſe, and the Iſland regained to the *Danes*.

This brave action of *De Ruyter* gained him more reputation from his Countrey, and honour from his maſters, then all which before that time he had atchieved, and ſo endeared him to the favour and eſteem of the King of *Denmark*, that he honoured him with the higheſt Order of Knighthood of that Kingdom, being that of the Elephant; and preſented him with a Chain and Meddal of Gold, which afterward he wore; and having remained there among the *Swedes*, untill the Peace between the *Danes* and them in *May*. 1660. was ratified, he

he with great applauſe returned with his Fleet home.

The War betwixt the *Danes* and *Swedes* ended, and *De Ruyter* with his Fleet ſafely returned into *Holland*, new loſſes from the Pirates of *Argiers*, *Tripoli*, and *Tunis*, called afreſh to the States for remedy: The vigilant and ſucceſsful *De Ruyter* was by the States deſigned for that charge; whoſe good ſervices (on the like occaſion) even in the infancy of his Sea-command had been remarkable in thoſe Seas; and is therefore diſpatcht with a Squadron of Ships into the *Streights*; where he kept ranging with his Fleet, purſuing and preſſing thoſe *Corſairs* with ſo great care and ſucceſs, that the benefit of his conſtant pains and valour became ſenſible to all the Merchants who traded there; whereby he confirmed to himſelf that fame and reputation which he

he had heretofore ſo juſtly merited, until matters of greater concern called him thence, upon the occaſion following.

After the wonderfull and long-wiſhed-for re-eſtabliſhment of his Majeſty, the King of *Great Brittain*, in the Throne of his Anceſtors, from which by the madneſs of his Subjects he had been long baniſhed; the States of the United Provinces overgrown with the wealth and proſperity of many years peace, the ordinary promoters of ambition; being conſcious to themſelves, that their carriage towards their Neighbors, eſpecially the Engliſh, however cloaked, could not but breed ſuch jealouſies as muſt in time break forth into open enmity; and perceiving his Majeſty of *Great Brittain* already ſo diſſatisfied with their diſguiſed practiſes, as could not but of neceſſity produce

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a War, reſolved to bring it to a tryall as ſoon as poſſibly they could, by giving the firſt occaſion of rupture, under the pretext of being provok'd by injuries received upon the Coaſt of *Guiny*, and elſewhere; Hereupon they Ordered Admiral *De Ruyter* with a ſquardron of thirteen Men of War then at *Gibraltor* in *Spain*, to make ſail for the Coaſt of *Guiny*, and to ſet upon the Engliſh there; This he ſo effectually performed, that in a ſhort time he deſtroyed moſt of their Factories, took *Cormanteen* Caſtle with other places, ſeverall Ships and goods belonging to the Engliſh.

That action ſo incenſed his Majeſty of *Great Britain*, that war was thereupon in *anno* 1664. publickly proclaimed againſt the States General of the United Provinces, impowering all his Majeſties Subjects, to uſe againſt them their ſubjects and people, all acts of hoſti-

hoſtility; but whilſt this was doing at home, *De Ruyter* diligent in the purſuance of his Commiſſion abroad, attempted the burning of the Engliſh Ships at *Barbadoes*, but in vain; and from thence ſailing to *New found land*, took ſeveral Merchants Ships, ſtript the men, and left them without proviſions; an act unworthy the name of ſo brave a man: Thus whilſt *Opdam* Admirall of the Dutch Fleet in *June* 1665, having engaged his Royall Highneſs the Duke of *York*, was in fire and ſmoak hurried out of this world, and his Fleet beat home with great loſs of Ships and men; *De Ruyter* remained at Sea, annoying the Ships and Foreign Plantations of the Engliſh: But *Opdams* death rendred his preſence at home abſolutely neceſſary, his experience and ſucceſs in War being ſo well known to all, that the

the univerſal voice of the people daily called his Name, whom (according to the intereſt and power they pretend to upon the Seas) they adopted, and intitled, *Son of Neptune* : Advice was therefore ſent to him, that he ſhould with his Fleet haſten home with all expedition ; which he obeying, ſlily ſlipt by the Engliſh Fleet wrapt in miſt, as men with their cloaks about their mouths ſhun the company of thoſe whom they are not willing to meet ; And on the laſt of *July* 1665. ſafely arrived in the *Emmes* : his arrival was congratulated by the States, and he thereupon made Admiral , but with authority not ſo abſolute , but that he was ſubordinate to the Triumvirate of *De Witt*, *Huygens* and *Bureel* ; who according to a new Model, had the ſuperintendency of the Navall affairs. He was no ſooner inſtalled

inſtalled in his new Command, but *Auguſt* 13. with a Fleet of Ninety Sail of Men of War, he was Ordered out from the *Texel*, to ſecure and convoy home the *Eaſt-India* Fleet, and many other rich Merchant-men, which ſtopt at *Bergen* for fear of the Engliſh Fleet then at Sea under the Command of the Earl of *Sandwich*; and who had been put in great alarm by the brave, but fruitleſs attempt of Sir *Thomas Tiddyman*, who was ſent out to have ſeized them in their harbour; In his going he met not with the Engliſh Fleet, but in his return was diſcovered and attacqued by the Earl of *Sandwich*, who finding himſelf too weak, his charge great, and the windes very high, with a running Fight he made the beſt of his way, and with the loſs of two great *Eaſt-India* Ships, ſome other Merchant-men, and five Men

Men of War, he brought his Fleet into the Weſt *Emmes*.

Before his Arrival by a Maſter of a Ship which he had met at Sea, he ſent a challenge to Major *Holmes* to meet him there; that ſeeing they two had been the firſt Adventurers in the War, they might try the ſucceſs of the publick quarrel, as far as their particular proweſs and fortune could incline it: The Challenge was as nobly accepted by the Major, as generouſly and gallantly ſent by *De Ruyter*; and the King of *England* to encourage the undertaking, Knighted Major *Holmes*, and aſſigned him a ſtately New Ship then built at *Deptford* which he purpoſely called the *Defiance*: but this combat was diverted by other intervening accidents.

In *May* 1666. *De Ruyter* with his Fleet being at Sea, His Majeſty of *Great Britain* ſet out a well

well appointed and great Fleet, under the joint Command of his Highneſs Prince *Rupert*, and his Grace the Duke of *Albemarle*, renowned for his valour and ſucceſs in the former War againſt the Dutch, and now advanced to that title; for the great and memorable Services performed to the King: but a falſe rumour of the French being at Sea, occaſioned the dividing of that Fleet: for Prince *Rupert* with the white Squadron, being ordered to make for the coaſt of *France*, to hinder the conjunction of the *French* and *Dutch*, who before the French came to Sea, the Duke of *Albemarle* was left, with about fifty Sail of Men of War, to wait on the Dutch: The boundleſs courage of that Duke, a diſpiſer of danger, led him to a gallant, but raſh attempt, upon *De Ruyter* and his Fleet, who

who then riding at anchor off of *Dunkirk*, with a number of Ships far exceeding the Engliſh; was upon Fryday the firſt of *June* ſo unexpectedly aſſaulted by them, the winde blowing high; that many of his Ships were fain to cut their cables in haſte to put themſelves in order of fighting: This was indeed a bloody and terrible engagement, which continued with matchleſs fury and reſolution on both ſides, till Sunday in the Evening; when the Engliſh Fleet being much torn, and the Generals own Ship diſabled; (the diſproportion of number, and the enemies Fleet being to the Leeward, whereby they played their great guns, which the Engliſh could not, being to the weather, and the winde high; giving great advantage to the Dutch) they drew off, having loſt the evening, before the

the brave Ship the *Prince*, which being ſtranded, was burnt by the *Dutch*, and Sir *George Ayſcue* Commander made Priſoner: yet notwithſtanding their great loſs, Prince *Rupert* upon notice given, and the noiſe of the guns then heard, having on Sunday in the Evening rejoyned the Fleet, and given the uſuall proofs of his great and undaunted valour: both Generalls on Munday early in the morning, purſued the Dutch, who were almoſt out of ſight, paſſed and repaſſed their Fleet ſeveral times: But *De Ruyter* finding himſelf (notwithſtanding of the recruits received) ſo weakned, that his longer continuance in action might have produced the effects rather of a vain glorious Bravo, then of a prudent circumſpect General, and good Countrey-man; having given wonderfull marks of his carriage and conduct, made

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made what haſte he could to ſecure his Fleet: This was the firſt encounter that *De Ruyter* as Commander in chief had with the Engliſh in theſe Wars; the victory of which was equally celebrated in both Nations, but whoever had the better, it is certain, both ſuſtained very great loſſes.

The pretenſions to victory in this laſt Engagement owned mutually by both parties, occaſioned their haſtening out again with all ſpeed to Sea, either to make good the old, or to gain a new title; and ſo in *Iuly* both Fleets were abroad; The *Engliſh* commanded by *Albemarle*, and the *Dutch* by *De Ruyter*; And on S. *Iames's* day about nine in the morning met and fell to blows again. *De Ruyter* with his Fleet for ſome conſiderable time made a brisk and a ſtout reſiſtance, but the Engliſh jealous of their honour which ſeemed to ſuffer by the *Dutch* ar-

rogating to themſelves the Victory in the former Engagement, plyed them ſo fiercely, that provident *De Ruyter* finding his fleet in a bad condition, according to his ſaving principles, of making the beſt of an ill bargain, began to give way, and was ſo cloſely purſued by the *Engliſh* Red and White Squadrons (whileſt *Van Trump* couragiouſly entertained the Blew) that *De Ruyters* own Ship was much ſhattered, and himſelf in all probability, if the Engliſh great ſhips could have got up with him, in danger of being taken, and two ſquadrons of his Fleet utterly deſtroyed: In this fight, on the *Engliſh* ſide, were only three Captains killed, the *Reſolution* burnt, and not many above three hundred men killed and wounded: On the *Dutch* ſide (according to the general computation of that time) above four thouſand men killed, three hundred

hundred common Sea-men wounded, and many Captains ſlain, amongſt which *Everſon* Admiral of *Zeland*, *Dirickhids* Admiral of *Frieſland*, the Vice-Admiral of *Frieſland*, and Rear-Admiral *Van Saen*, and the number of their fleet ſo impaired, that of above an hundred Ships there returned but eighty into harbour. The *Dutch* who hitherto ſtill boaſted of Victory, gave now ſenſible ſigns of the Engliſh having the better, by leaving their harbours and rodes undefended; ſo that Sir *Robert Holmes* ſhortly after this fight, ſails into the *Ulie*, and with one fifth-rate Frigate, ſome Ketches and fireſhips, there burnt an hundred and ſixty ſail of *Dutch* Veſſels.

But neither was this nor the laſt blow ſo fatall as to keep the *Dutch* from Sea, for about the end of *Auguſt* Admiral *De Ruyter* appears again with a ſtronger fleet

then before, ſtretching along the back of the *Goodwin* ſands, for the *French*-coaſt, with deſigne to have joyned the Duke of *Beaufort*, who with about forty ſail of *French* ſhips lay at *Rochel* ready to come to their aſſiſtance: The Engliſh fleet having advice, made after them with ſuch diligence, that they were forced to ſtand in for *Bulloign*-road, and there very narrowly eſcaped a new Engagement, by reaſon of the weather, which growing extremely tempeſtuous, conſtrained the Engliſh to bear away for *S. Hellens Bay*, the place of rendevouz, and the moſt proper ſtation to hinder the conjunction of the *French* and *Dutch*: In the mean while the *Ruby* a *French*-ſhip of fifty four guns, commanded by *Monſieur le Roche* ſeparated by foul weather from the reſt of the fleet, miſtaking the enemies white flag for their own, fell in amongſt the Engliſh, and after

after ſome ſtout reſiſtance, was taken, and the Captain made Priſoner, but in complement to his valour, was afterward diſmiſſed: And now *De Ruyter* falling ſick, was forced to return to *Amſterdam*, leaving the care and charge of the *Dutch* fleet to *Van Neſs*; But the States finding the ſeaſon far ſpent, and the weather ſtormy and tempeſtuous, commanded their fleet home.

After that the *Dutch* Fleet was returned into harbour, and *De Ruyter* recovered of his ſickneſs, ſome grudgings and animoſities ariſen betwixt him and *Van Trump* during the late actions, proceeding partly (as it was conceived) from the byaſs of their differing factions, the former being a declared re-publican, and the latter a favourer of the intereſt of the Prince of *Orange*, who was not then advanced to the dignity of Stat-holder;) broke forth in-

to ſuch open debate, that they mutually accuſed and blamed each other, for the ill ſucceſs and miſcarriages of the paſt Summers actions; but Admiral *De Ruyter* highly eſteemed by the States for his Valour, prudence and ſingular conduct, and ſupported by the favour of the leading Party, ſo far prevailed with his Maſters, that ſeveral Sea-Commanders were put to death for cowardiſe, and himſelf confirmed with greater power and authority then before.

About the end of this year 1666. the Dutch being weary of the vaſt expences, and weakned by the great loſſes of the war, and the Engliſh much diſheartned by the burning of the City of *London*, which happened in *September*; both ſeemed inclinable to an accomodation; and overtures of peace thereupon began to be ſet on foot on either ſide;

ſide; which ſeemed to ſome who thought themſelves wiſe very hopeful.

In the beginning of the Spring *De Ruyter* was again ſpeeded out to Sea, and in *April* 1667, made an attempt with a good Fleet upon Brunt-Iſland, a Town in the Scottiſh firth, intending to have landed and ſpoyled the Countrey; but by the vigilant care, and conduct of the Earl of *Rothoes*, Chancellour of that Kingdom, with the Trained Bands of the Countrey, he was bravely repulſed with loſs.

After this, *De Ruyter* to amuſe the Engliſh (who in a ſmall Fleet were at ſea) ſent off a detachment of twenty five ſail of ſhips to cruiſe to the Northward, who on the third of *June* falling in with Nineteen Sail of Engliſh Frigats off of *Hull*, began a furious and bloudy conflict, which was ſo ſtoutly and obſtinately

maintained on both ſides, that from twenty five the *Dutch* were reduc't to fourteen ſail, and the *Engliſh* from nineteen to fifteen.

Shortly after he made an attempt upon ſome Neighbouring parts of *Harwich*, having put aſhoar three thouſand men near *Felſton-cliff*, and commanded two thouſand of them to make an aſſault upon *Langward-Fort*, which was twice eſſayed, the firſt laſting about three quarters of an hour, and the other one quarter; but at laſt with the loſſe of an hundred men, they were forced to retreat in ſo much haſte and diſorder, that they left behinde them all their ladders: whileſt theſe actions continued at *Langward-fort*, a party of twelve hundred *Dutch* being poſted at the cliff their landing-place, to ſecure and make good their retreat, were attacked by the Trained Bands of the Countrey under the Command of the

the Earl of *Suffolk*, and the *Dutch* being ſupplied with freſh recruits from the Fleet, a very ſmart skirmiſh continued betwixt them till ten of the night; but the *Engliſh* horſe then coming in ſight, the *Dutch* thought it ſafeſt to quit the Land, and ſo as ſoon as their boats were afloat, in great haſte they embarqued, and returned to their Fleet.

The day following this defeat at *Langward-Fort*, *de Ruyter* with the *Dutch* Fleet was purſued by Sir *Edward Spragg* and Sir *Joſeph Jordan* with about twenty ſail of ſmall Frigats; but whether *De Ruyter* finding his Orders limited, or for the reaſons above-hinted, notwithſtanding he had a much ſtronger Fleet, kept at diſtance, and carefully avoided engagement; taking his courſe through the channell for the Weſtern parts of *England*: In his paſſage he appeared before *Portſmouth*, but

knowing the ſtrength of the place, and finding the Countrey in arms, he only ſhewed himſelf there, and ſo continued his voyage to the Weſtern coaſts.

In *Devonſhire* he endeavoured to have landed ſome men at *Wenbury*, but the Militia of the Countrey being ready to receive them, ſo warmly ſaluted them with ſome Volleys of ſmall ſhot, that they were forced with all ſpeed to betake themſelves back again to their ſhips. The Admiral deſpairing to effect any thing here by force, ſent off a boat with a white flag, deſiring leave to come aſhoar to buy freſh proviſions, but it was denied him by the Gentlemen and Officers that commanded there; alledging that no ſuch permiſſion could be granted without the conſent and authority of the Commander in chief, who then was abſent; *De Ruyter* in this manner diſappointed of

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his intent at *Wenbury*, came with his whole Fleet before *Coulard* in *Cornwall*, and having anchored within musket-shot of the shoar; sent off twelve boats full of men with designe of landing, whilst he in the mean time played on the land with his great guns from aboard: but the Foot of the Countrey, that were posted there, purposely to oppose their landing, charged them so briskly, that they were forced to put off again without effecting any thing.

By this time *De Ruyter* being informed from *Holland* of the progress of the Treaty of Peace, which now was in a tendency to a speedy conclusion, not willing with new hostilities to retard that which was so heartily desired by both parties; relented a little in the ardour of his proceedings, and began to heal the wounds which he had formerly made by

prudent application of the politick plaisters of necessity and ignorance; excusing some hostilities, as thereto enjoyned by his Commission, and others as committed without his Order: And to that purpose sent off two officers with a flag of truce, who being brought before Sir *Jonathan Trelawny*, who commanded in chief under the Earl of *Bath* in these parts, and having made the complement and apologies of the Admiral, desired in his name a conference with some English aboard, for whose safe coming and returning, he was ready to engage the faith of the Seven Provinces. Sir *Jonathan* having herewith advised the Earl of *Bath*, by his Order *De Ruyter* was visited aboard of his own Ship, by the same Sir *Jonathan Trelawny*, Major *Sparks*, and Mr. *Windham*. The Admiral upon their approach courteously came over

over his Ships-ſide, met, and received them in their boat, where after mutuall ſalutations, having renewed the Apologies formerly made by his meſſengers; he invited them aboard, received them with a ſalute of Ordinance, and entertained them with the Chief Officers of his Fleet at a magnificent dinner in the great Cabbin: During which he gave honourable demonſtrations of love and eſteem for their perſons, and frequently repeated the expreſſions of the great honour he had for his Majeſty and Kingdom of *England*; and real and hearty wiſhes for a ſolid and permanent correſpondence betwixt both Nations, lamenting the great damages and loſs which accrued to both by ſo ruinating a War. The Engliſh entertained his civilities with reciprocal returns of honour and kindeneſs, and having offered

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him supplies of all necessary provisions for his own Table, refusing more untill the peace should be concluded; they took their leave, having been first assured by him, that no more hurt should be done to the Countrey whilst he remained on these Coasts. The Earl of *Bath* afterward presented him with such provisions and necessaries, as the Countrey and season of the year afforded; which he courteously received, and in signe of gratitude fired several guns, and so departed: but notwithstanding the promises of indemnity given, after his departure from *Plymouth*, two of his Fleet, advancing toward *Fey*, for some time lay annoying and battering the harbour and shoar with great shot, till having received dammage in their hulls, and one of them having lost his main topmast, they desisted and went off;

off ; whether this was by the Generals Order or not , is not known ; there having been no enquiry ever made in the action, by reaſon of the peace that immediatly followed ; but it is believed that *De Ruyter* had no hand in it.

This long-expected Peace concluded at *Breda* the 21 of *June*, and at length the 14th of *Auguſt* 1667. ratified in *England*, rather by the exigency and neceſſity of the times , than the intire and full ſatisfaction of both parties , as appeared within few years afterward , gave reſpite to both Nations to breathe a little, and recruit their mutual paſt loſſes by induſtrious proſecuting their traffick, the hugg'd darling of both people : and to conſider in cold blood what had been done amiſſe by either ſide, during the War , that from ſo ſeaſonable a peace, they might pick the ne-

ceſſary

ceſſary means of future reparation. And now *De Ruyter* having ſafely reconducted his Fleet into harbour, was received by the States with thanks and honours ſuitable to his merit, and with the univerſal acclamations and applauſe of the Countrey; and was judged by all diſcreet men to have underſtood as well the meaſures of a General in that Common-wealth as any whoſoever, by his never giving way to the tranſports of vain-glory, or rage in the heat of action, but by timely retreat or advantagious fighting; like the Roman *Fabius Maximus, Cunctando reſtituit rem.*

The States having now no more need of ſo eminent a Commander at ſea, the great and dreadfull War being over, but occaſion ſtill of a wiſe and practiſed Stateſman at home; admitted the *Heer De Ruyter* with no

no leſs expectation into their Councils of difficult affairs, then they had formerly impowred him as General at ſea : wherein he ſo anſwered their hopes ; that during the four years peace, or rather ceſſation of arms betwixt *England* and *Holland*, he gave ſo ſignal proofs of his prudence, that they were only fain to diſpence with his being at home ; becauſe they could not finde a Succeſſour for him abroad which the buſineſſe of the year 1672. urgently required.

The *French* King in *anno* 1671. with a conſiderable army came to *Dunkirk* in *Flanders*, this progreſſe in a time of peace being accompanied with great preparations for War, gave apprehenſions to all his Neighbours, but eſpecially to the States of the United Provinces, who ſuſpecting that his approach ſo near them, was to ſhew them the rod with which

which he intended to chaſtiſe the rudeneſs and inſolency which the States were ſaid to have uſed towards his Majeſty; began to arm, and make ready for their own defence. The King of *Great Britain*, likewiſe ſeeing his potent and moſt dangerous competitors ſo buſy and earneſt at work, the deſigne of which was not as yet made publick; thought it time to look to the ſecurity of his ſubjects, and to put his Kingdoms out of danger of a ſurpriſe: and ſo at the ſame time (as by an influence of deſtiny) moſt States of Chriſtendome ſeemed to prepare for war. The *French* who pretended to teach civility and good manners to thoſe, who oftentimes are not willing to learn; thought the *Dutch* ſtood in need of ſome documents; and the partial and ſlow performances made by the States to the King of *England*,

and

and his ſubjects, of the Articles of their laſt Peace, and the quarrel of the *Dutch* fiſhing, anciently in the Engliſh ſeas, and more lately in their rivers, being neither ſo well adjuſted, nor digeſted, as might ſtand with the honour and ſecurity of publick intereſt; the King herewith provoked, and by reviling Pamphlets againſt his Royal Perſon, joyned with the *French* King in a ſtrict League of purſuing by arms their mutual pretentions againſt the *Dutch*: And having firſt friendly demanded ſatisfaction of the paſt abuſes by his Embaſſadour Sir *George Downing*, his Majeſty reſolved to ſummon them to their duty by a more effectual Method.

On the thirteenth of *January*, two parties meeting, and the Dutch refuſing to ſtrike, there followed an engagement, and this firſt blow being thus given, the

the King of Great Brittain publiſheth his Declaration againſt the States of the United Provinces to this effect ; That the diſſatisfacton which his Majeſty had from the carriage of the States General of the United Provinces towards him, for ſome years paſt, being ſuch, that he could no longer without diminution of his own honour, diſſemble the indignation raiſed in him by a treatment too unſuitable to the great obligations which he and his Predeceſſours had ſo liberally heaped upon them ; He was reſolved to declare war againſt them, forbidding all his Subjects to hold correſpondence with them upon pain of death. This Declaration being with the uſuall ſolemnities proclaimed in *London* and *Weſtminſter*, was ſeconded by the French King with actions previous to a rupture with that Crown alſo : he having

ving laid great taxes and cuſtomes upon all Dutch goods in his kingdom, and raiſed an impoſition of fifty *per cent.* upon ſalt, and other merchandiſes of *France* exported by the *Dutch*, and upon all herrings, ſpices, and other goods imported into his dominions by them : prohibiting all his ſubjects to lade any brandy aboard of any *Holland* or *Dutch* Veſſells, and ſhortly after publickly, and in good earneſt declared war.

The States of *Holland* foreſeeing the ſtorm which now began to break upon them, had ſo fortified themſelves with the powerfull alliances of *Spain*, *Germany*, and *Denmark*, that they ſeemed not unequally matched with their mighty enemies in ſo great a conjunction : ſo that in the year 1672. the greateſt part of the States of Chriſtendome became involved in a bloody and expenſive

expenſive War, which is not yet ended.

Matters thus advancing toward action, the Dutch who were not behinde in their preparations, but wanting a head, reſolved to gratifie both Kings in the choice of their General, and ſo in a full Aſſembly of the States, the *Prince of Orange* is unanimouſly elected *Generalliſſimo* of all their Forces both by Sea and Land, for that years expedition, with promiſe to renew his authority after expiration, during life: and *Jan De Wit* and the *Rereward van Putten* (the two unfortunate brothers that were afterward barbarouſly murthered in a tumult of the incenſed rabble at the *Hague*) with ſome others, appointed as Commiſſioners to aſſiſt him: Under him *De Ruyter* was made Lieutenant-Admiral, whoſe power (notwithſtanding of his many tried ſervices,

ſervices, ſuch is the fear of that State of an abſolute authority) was ſtinted, having the *Rereward Van Putten* placed over him by the States as a check and curb: and conſidering the forewardneſs of the Engliſh in their preparations, was ordered with all expedition to haſten with his Fleet to Sea.

His Royall Highneſs the *Duke of York*, whoſe former ſucceſs againſt the Dutch had rendred his very name more terrible to that people, than the wonders of others, being at Sea with the Engliſh Fleet commanded by himſelf in chief, and the Earl of *Sandwich* Admiral of the Blew; and having joyned the *French* with the white flag under the Command of the Count *d'Eſtree*, which all together made a formidable Navy, of about an hundred and ſixty ſail, great and ſmall: In *May* 1672. made toward

ward the Coaſt of *Holland*, in ſearch of the *Dutch* Fleet, then likewiſe at Sea, Commanded by *De Ruyter*, *Van Ghent* and *Banckert*; and having had ſeveral views of the enemy, but no opportunity of fighting, which the cautious *De Ruyter* always avoided, according to his politick *Maximes*, without ſome apparent advantage; but more eſpecially at this juncture, when the States had ſo much lying at ſtake, not thinking it ſafe to quit his ſands: his Highneſs with the whole Fleet returned to the Coaſt of *England*, and came to anchor in *Southwold Bay*.

De Ruyter (in the mean while) who was ſeldome out in his conjectures, concluding that his declining of an Engagement would certainly be by the *Engliſh* and *French* interpreted fear, and conſequently breed in them contempt of their enemy, and thereby

by ſecurity, reſolved to come up with them before he was expected: and being by his ſcouts advertiſed in what poſture the Engliſh fleet lay, and having the winde favourable at E. N. E. weighed anchor from behinde his banks with his whole Fleet and on *May* 29th. by five of the clock in the morning came in ſight of the Royall Fleet, ſo unexpected, that ſeveral Ships were forced to cut their cables in diſorder, to put themſelves in poſture of fighting, and about eight in the morning fell in with them. The fight began betwixt the Earl of *Sandwith* in the *Royall James* with the blew Squadron, and *Van Ghent*, whilſt his Royall Highneſs in the *Prince* with the Red, engaged *De Ruyter*, and the Count *De Eſtree* with the French, and white Squadron, *Banckert*. The fight was terrible and bloody, eſpecially between

the blew Squadron and *Van Ghent*, who in the beginning of the battel was ſhot to death. The brave Earl of *Sandwich* who was reſolved to pawn his life for his honour, being engaged in the middle of the *Dutch* with a few ſhips; the *Soveraign*, and others of his Squadron, having ſtood off to gain the weather-gage, and the Duke in hot action with *De Ruyter*, overpowerd with a number of men of War and fire-ſhips, and a hardy Dutch Captain *Adrian Brackell*, having laid him aboard athwart the haſs; yet ſtill continued the fight with ſuch unſhaken courage, that he ſunk two of three of the fire-ſhips that had grapled with him, and forced the Dutch Captain to call for quarter: but at laſt his ſhip being unhappily fired by a third Fireſhip, was burnt, and he himſelf with many perſons of quality bravely, but unfortu-

nately

nately periſhed ; to the grief of the King his Maſter , and unſpeakable regret of his Countrey ; having left to poſterity an immortal proof , that Valour crowned with honour, does not ſhrink, but ſwells by its reward. *Haddock* his Captain though wounded, eſcaped by ſwimming, till he was taken up. This happened in the afternoon , when thoſe ſhips of the blew-ſquadron, that had ſtood off, having got the winde, bore down upon the Dutch , and aſſiſted the Duke who preſſed *De Ruyter* ſo ſtraitly , that towards the evening he gave way , and ſtood over for the Dutch Coaſt , and was purſued by the Duke all night. In this Engagement beſides the loſſe of the Noble Earl of *Sandwich* , and his ſhip , the *Henry* and *Royall Catherine* , two great ſhips on the Engliſh ſide were taken , Captain *Digby*

Commander of the firſt being killed, and Sir *John Chichely* of the latter made priſoner, but were both ſhortly after regained by the Engliſh priſoners aboard, who forced and overcome their guards. On the Dutch ſide, Admiral *Van Ghent* was ſlain, moſt of their great ſhips miſerably torn, and two of them ſunk, and one of fourty eight guns Captain *Elderſon* of *Amſterdam* Commander taken, many more were miſſing, of which no particular account can be given. The *Dutch* with confidence pleaſed themſelves to brag of a Victory with the accuſtomed ſolemnities of rejoycing; and imputed much of the Engliſh loſs to the French ſeperating from the reſt of the Fleet that day, about noon; but it is certain that the Duke having purſued them to their own Coaſt, and having next day in vain offered battel, kept the

ſeas,

ſeas, and could bring them to no more action this year.

The advice of the prevailing progreſs of the *French* on the one hand, and the Biſhop of *Munſter* on the other, which put the States in much apprehenſion, and the people in great fright and confuſion; being brought to *De Ruyter*, as he rode with his Fleet at the Oyſter-bank; occaſioned his haſtening from thence to *Blanckenburgh*, there to put aſhoar a great part of his men to be employed at land, where the danger then ſeemed moſt preſſing: And whilſt he continued there with a Fleet half mann'd to ſecure the arrival of the *Eaſt-India* Fleet, which was then look't for; the *Duke of York* kept at ſea, ſometime cruiſing, ſometime at anchor on the *Doggerbank*, in very bad weather, with intention either to ſeize that Fleet, or to pro-

voke the Dutch to a New Engagement by their attempting to defend them. About this time the tumult of the untractable people who imputed all their calamities to the errours of their Governours, grew every where ſo high, that it ſeemed to threaten a diſſolution of Government; eſpecially at *Dort*, where the *Burghers* armed in a great body having ſurrounded the houſe where the *Prince of Orange* ſate at dinner, with the Magiſtrates of the place; ſent ſome of their Officers with a form of writing, containing a New Election of his Highneſſe to be hereditary Statholder of the Common-wealth, with a renunciation of all malicious Acts and Edicts made by the *Loveſtein* faction to the contrary; threatning the Magiſtrates with the loſſe of their lives, unleſſe they preſently ſigned it: This peremptory deſire the Magiſtrates durſt

durſt not refuſe, but preſently ſigned the Writing, and diſpenced with the Oath formerly extorted from the Prince, never to accept any ſuch dignity for the future by the contrary and ſwaying party: and this tumultuary procedure had the influence upon the other Corporations, that moſt did the like; ſo that at length it advanced ſo far as to be publickly ratified and confirmed by the States; ſo great order many times by a guiding providence is produced from greateſt confuſion.

In the rage of this unruly multitude *De Ruyter* himſelf there celebrated tutelary and guardian, though then at ſea, for their defence hardly eſcaped their fury; for a company of common people having mutined into a body beſet his houſe in the New Iſland of *Amſterdam*; and if they had not been hindred by the Magi-

ſtrates had plundered and ſackt it: this was ſo ſtrange when no previous ſet diſcourſe (that is known) did winde up the Jack to ſuch a revolution; that it affords us another eaſy and obvious remark, that men when they are mad, are never wiſe.

The Duke of *York* having for many weeks kept his ſtation, and ſuffered very foul weather on the *Dogger-bank*; and *De Ruyter* at *Blanckenburgh*, without any offer of fighting; the long wiſhed for *Eaſt-India* Fleet (which the Duke hoped might give occaſion to a new tryal) at length appeared near the Coaſt of *Holland*. *De Ruyter* by his advice-boats informed of this, thinking himſelf obliged to uſe his utmoſt endeavours, for the ſecurity of ſo great a concern: weighed from *Blanckenburgh*, and with a Fleet ill-mann'd, and in bad condition of fighting; ſlid along the

ſhoar,

ſhoar, without being diſcovered by the Engliſh; met the Fleet, and ſafely conducted them into *Delfzey* in the *Weſt-Emms*. The *Cambridge* and *Briſtol* two Engliſh Frigats, being then upon the ſcout, came up with them, and had ſome little encounter; but the windes was high, and the ſea ſo rough, that no booty could be gained. The Duke having now loſt all hopes of alluring the *Dutch* to any more action this year, left Sir *Edward Spragg* with a ſquadron of ſhips to keep the ſeas, and diſturb their fiſhing, and he himſelf with the reſt of the fleet returned home.

The torrent of the French conqueſts at land being now ſomewhat ſtopt, and the tumult and rage of the people quieted, the affairs of Sea came next in play; In the preparations for which, the vigilant *De Ruyter* with much diligence employed the winter,

(which happened by reaſon of its openneſs, to be very favourable to the *Dutch*) propoſing to himſelf reaſonable advantages, if he could have a Fleet in readineſs next ſpring at Sea, before the coming of the *French*, which he effected. For in *May* 1673. with a ſtrong and well-appointed Navy commanded by himſelf, *Van Trump* and *Banckert*, he was out again at Sea, and in the mouth of the River of *Thames*, with deſigne, by ſinking of ſeveral great Ships in the narrow paſſages of the Channel, called the *Middle-ground*, to have ſtopped and blockt up the mouth and entry of the river; but the breadth of that channel, and the commodiouſneſs of others, rendred his attempts altogether in vain.

Prince *Rupert*, who for this Years Expedition Commanded the Royal Navies, lying at the *Buoy of the Nore*, with part of

of the *English* fleet (the *French* being not as yet arrived) when *De Ruyter* appeared, was hindred by the windes to get out; but afterwards having with much difficulty put to Sea, and made towards the *Dutch*: *De Ruyter* not ſwerving from his former meaſures, thinking he gained enough when he did not loſe, warily retired behinde the banks, thoſe impregnable ſea-ramparts, ſhunning at that time any engagement: The Prince ſeeing this, ſtood with his fleet for the *Streights* off *Calais*, with intention to meet the *French* and *Portſmouth* fleets; whom after a ſhort ſtay, he having joyned at *Dungean neſs*, with the whole fleet, returned for the coaſt of *Holland*, and *May* 26. 1673. arrived before *Schonvelt* where *de Ruyter* lay with his fleet.

The winde and Sea then unſeaſonable, allowed no fair opportunity of fighting, but the twenty eighth

eighth in the morning, the weather fair, and a freſh gale, invited the Prince to action: *De Ruyter* ſtill kept his ſtation where the great ſhips could not approach: and the Prince reſolving by all means poſſible to draw him to an engagement, ſent off thirty five ſail of ſmall Frigats to provoke him to battel: The *Dutch* contrary to the expectation of the *Engliſh* and *French* in excellent order came forth, and boldly encountred this Van-guard of the fleet with ſuch hot ſervice, that they being forced a little to yield, diſordered the reſt of the Royal Navy: The fight continued deſperately on both ſides, the *Engliſh* and *French* with mutuall emulation behaving themſelves bravely, and with ſo much eagerneſs, that they entangled each other, and gave ſome advantage to the enemy: For the Valiant Earl of *Offory* being peſtered amongſt the

French,

French, ran foul of an *Engliſh* Fregat, and was entangled with a fireſhip; and was no ſooner got clear, but the obſervant *De Ruyter* laying hold of the opportunity, bore down upon him with his whole Squadron, and gave him freſh occaſion to ſignalize his Valour: The Earl with his ſhips that were with him, received the Admirall with no leſs reſolution then he was attacqued, and maintained a bloudy fight, with equal ſucceſs, till both being ſufficiently battered, the night put an end to the conflict, and the *Dutch* returned to their lurking holes: In this Fight *de Ruyter* loſt only the Ship called the *Debenter*, and had killed the Vice-Admſral *Schram*, Rear-Admiral *Ulugh*, and ſix Captains; After the old manner both Parties claimed the honour of the Victory; The *Dutch* becauſe they had repulſed the Aſſailants, and

the

the Engliſh becauſe they had forced the *Dutch* to their banks of refuge; but both fleets were much damnified.

The next three days were ſpent in mending and re-fitting their ſhattered ſhips, which the *Dutch* had better opportunity to perform (having all neceſſaries from their ſtores at hand) then the *Engliſh*, who were ſo remote from their own Coaſt; So that *de Ruyter* knowing well the advantage, in the begining of *June* put out again, and by his approach allarmed the *Engliſh*, who had not as yet got into ſuch readineſs; yet notwithſtanding they preſently put themſelves in a poſture of engaging, obſerving the motion of the *Dutch*, which *de Ruyter* perceiving drew all his fleet into a line, reaching three leagues, and ſo came to an anchor, expecting the coming unto the fleet of the *Heers Boſchovelt, Van der Meyden, Moregnault*,

and

and *Van der Vierſe* the Deputies of the States General; who being arrived and in a Council of War having approved his intent of fighting, and afterward returned again aſhoar; on the fourth of *June*, *De Ruyter* with his whole Fleet, was by eleven of the clock again under ſail, making directly towards the Engliſh, who kept their old ſtation. Sir *Edward Spragg* Admiral of the Engliſh blew ſquadron, who had the Van, not believing that the Dutch intended to fight, but only as before to change their rode; made no great haſte to bear up, and ſo loſt the winde; and being much preſſed by the *French*, as they by the Prince in the rear, who were all eager to come to blows; he was put in ſome little diſorder. The two Fleets for ſome time fought ſtoutly, eſpecially where the Earl of *Oſſory* and Sir *Edward Spragg*

Spragg engaged, till the Prince finding the diſadvantage of the winde, with the red and white ſquadrons ſtood away *N W. De Ruyter* thinking it was to get the winde, which he was not willing to loſe, did the like, and left *Van Trump* with the reſt of the Fleet in a ſharp conflict with *Spragg* and *Oſſory*. The day began to cloſe before the ſhot on either ſide betwixt the Prince and *De Ruyter* began to do execution: but at length the Engliſh muſt confeſs, that to their great wonder, they firſt learned here, that the *Dutch* powder was ſtronger and the guns longer than their own. So Prince *Rupert* having ſhifted himſelf from the *Royal Charles* into the *Old Soverain*, and Sir *Edward Spragg* rejoyned the Fleet, they fought at diſtance moſt part of the night, and by break of day both Fleets being out of ſight of each other,

other, the Prince with the loſs of many men, and diſabled ſhips, made for the *Thames*; and *De Ruyter* with little loſs having had the advantage of the winde and a diſtant fight, ſtood back for his old ſtation on the Coaſt of *Zeland*. *De Ruyter* in this action gave evident proof that he knew when it was time to purſue as well as retreat, and that he never turned his back but with intent to ſhew his face.

It was now the twentieth of *July* before the *Engliſh* and *French* were in condition again to viſit the *Dutch* Coaſts, and then having diſcovered *De Ruyter* with his Fleet eight leagues off of the Coaſt of *Zealand*, and in poſture of Fighting, the Royall Navy expected an Engagement, but wiſe *De Ruyter* who always fought after his own manner, knew well the importance of ſo great a triall, and that the affairs of

of his Countrey ſo embarraſſed on all hands, did not require the hazarding of the intereſt and honour of his Maſters, or of himſelf, without ſome probable hopes of ſaving of both; ſtood in nearer the ſhoar, and bore away along the Coaſt, declining all engagement untill the one and twentieth of *Auguſt* following.

On the twentieth of *Auguſt*, Prince *Rupert* being informed that the *Dutch* Fleet were about *Goree*, made thither, and towards the evening diſcovered them: but being then late, thought beſt not to attacque them that night: In the mean time *De Ruyter* according to his ordinary conduct improving the benefit of the darkneſs, ſtood in cloſe to the ſhoar, and bearing up before next morning, gained the winde of the Engliſh, and by ſeven of the Clock bore down upon

upon them freſhly. The *Prince* upon this, changing his courſe, ſtood away S. W. and the *French* who had the Van engaged *Banckert*, the Prince in the middle, *De Ruyter* and Sir *Edward Spragg* in the rear, (after the old manner) *Van Trump*. This Fight was ſo managed between the *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, as if both parties being by ſome ſecret inſtinct acquainted that this was to be the laſt, reſolved to prove their utmoſt and laſt effects of fortitude and conduct among the *French*, Capt. *Martel* behaved himſelf bravely: *Banckert* ſent off a few ſhips to wait the *French* motion, and with the reſt of his ſquadron came in to the aſſiſtance of *De Ruyter* againſt the Prince, who for ſome time valiantly exchanged their broadſides, and behaved themſelves with equal courage and ſucceſs. Sir *Edward Spragg* and *Van Trump* (the two declared

declared Competitours and Rivals for honour) with their ſquadrons in the mean time perſiſted in action with ſuch determinate reſolution, that the *Dutch* avow the like never to have been ſeen, their own two ſhips having without touching of a ſail ſtrangely endured the fury of three full hours unceſſant battery. But Sir *Edward Spraggs* Ship the *Prince*, having loſt her maſts, and being ſo fearfully torn, as to be unfit for more ſervice, with his flag diſplayed in his boat, he ſhifted aboard off the *St. George*; and finding her likewiſe diſabled, as he was leaving of her to get into the *Royall Charles*, a cruel ſhot ſunk his boat, and left him helpleſs in the Ocean, whoſe power being greater then that of *Van Trump*; by his death chill'd that heat of courage, which *Trump* could never have cooled above water: His

His death was by all, even the Dutch themſelves bewailed, who acknowledged him to have been a brave man, and valiant Souldier: His Ship couragiouſly defended by the ſtout Earl of *Oſſory* (notwithſtanding all the attempts that *Van Trump* made to be Maſter of her.) was ſafely towed off by the *Hampſhire* Fregat. The Prince and *de Ruyter* at this time finding themſelves at too great diſtance from the ſquadrons ſo hotly engaged, who ſtood both in need of aſſiſtance; as by mutual conſent, tacked both, and in friendly manner without firing, ſtood towards their reſpective friends: but *de Ruyter* having joyned *Van Trump* who was ſtill engaged, with the blew, before the Prince could could come in; fell upon the blew with renewed fury, intending to have totally cut off that ſquadron from the reſt of the

 Engliſh

Engliſh Fleet; but at length the Prince coming in time, broke in amongſt the Dutch with unanſwerable force, and Captain *Legg* with his fireſhips, put them in great diſorder and confuſion; It was believed by all, that if the *French* had made their beſt uſe of that winde, *de Ruyter* and his Fleet could not ſo fairly (as they did) by the favour of the night, have taken their leave of this and all other publick action with the Engliſh, during this War. The loſſes in this laſt Fight were great on both ſides; many brave Commanders, and Vaſt number of men killed and wounded; but both ſo poſitively pretending to victory, it is hard to determine who had the better; yet the Dutch by Sir *Edward Spraggs* death thinking their title good, made the whole Countrey ſo merry with the ringing noiſe of Victory: that the States changed the following day

day of Humiliation into thanksgiving, and in ſtead of faſting, drunk and ſung Pſalms.

The ſingular prudence and conduct of Admiral *de Ruyter* in the ſeveral paſſages of this War, rendred him ſo uſeful to his Countrey (of whoſe tottering and decaying ſtate he ſeemed the *Atlas* and guardian) and ſo conſiderable to his enemies, who by experience found it not eaſy to triumph over him; that notwithſtanding the powerful efforts made for that end, the ſucceſs of affairs remained ſo little inclined to either ſide, that the one had no reaſon to deſpair, nor the other to ſcorn the proffers of accommodation; made way for a Treaty of peace with *England*; and the States of *Holland* catching their opportunity, when the vigorous interceſſion of the Crown, and Miniſters of *Spain* concurred ſo pat with the publick good offices of their friends

friends in *England*: they ſo effectually purſued the neceſſary and advantagious concern of peace with that kingdom, that by the frequent ſollicitations and buſy importunities of one and other, the King of *Great Britain* did at length condeſcend to a peace with the Dutch: which was concluded at *Weſtminſter* the Ninth of *February*, 1674. to the unſpeakable joy of the States, and perpetual renown of *de Ruyter*, in ſuch a pinching nick of time, that the Dutch had good reaſon to be thankfull for ſo ſeaſonable an accomodation.

Janus Temple being thus half ſhut, and the States General having now but one way to look; reſolved to bend all their forces againſt the *French*, both by Sea and land: and knowing that the *French* would not adventure to meet them at Sea; being diſ-

joyned

joyned from the Engliſh; judged it moſt convenient to moleſt their navigation, annoy their Coaſts, and deſtroy (as much as conveniently could be done) their Countrey and Plantations. In Order hereunto, they ſent out a great Fleet of ſixty ſix men of War, beſides victuallars, tenders and fireſhips, under the Command of Lieutenant Admirall *De Ruyter*, and *Van Trump*, with a flying Army of Land-forces, Commanded by Count *William Van Horn*. This Fleet joyned at their rendevous on the fourteenth of *May* 1674. ſet ſail from the *Weelings*; and having by a Squadron of fifteen men of War, allarmed all the Coaſt of *Calais* and *Bulloigne*, they paſſed along the Engliſh ſhoar, and *Iſle of Wight*, and come to anchor in *Tourbay*. Here after a great Councill of War, they divided the Fleet into two Squadrons; appointing one and

twenty ſail of Men of War, and fourty eight other Ships, with ſeveral Companies of Land-ſouldiers, under the Command of Old *De Ruyter* Admiral, *Evertſe* of *Zealand* Vice-Admiral, and young *Engell de Ruyter* Son of the other Rear-Admiral for the Weſtern French Iſlands; and *Van Trump* and the Count *Horn*, with the reſt of the fleet and Land-forces, for the Coaſt of *France*.

The deſigne ſo laid, was accordingly put in execution; for *De Ruyter* with his fleet on the 29. of *May* made ſail to the Weſtward, and ten days after *Van Trump* for the coaſt of *France*; *de Ruyter* continuing his courſe with fair windes, on the ninth of *July* came in ſight of the *Isle of Martenique*, and the tenth arrived in the Bay called *Cuſack*: The *French* being advertiſed of their coming, appeared in readineſs, marching towards the ſhoar, and the Dutch with ſome ſmall ſhips

ſhips that ſailed near the land, told them their errand, by firing ſmartly againſt them from aboard: this ſalute forced the *French* a little to retreat, and burn ſome houſes, which they thought ſtood in their way, and favoured the Enemy: In the afternoon a Council of War being held, a deſcent was concluded on, and *de Ruyter* having given the ſigne of landing, the land-forces divided into 3. ſquadrons, under the Command of Col. *Vytenhove*, with 20 men to throw granadoes for each Squadron, immediatly embarked in their boats and ſhalloops, and with great courage, notwithſtanding the *French* violent firing on them from their ſhips which they had aſhoar, and out of their woods, landed and made themſelves Maſters of a Bank, which the *French* had caſt up to prevent their landing, and forced the Enemy to retire to their Fort: *De Ruyter* perceiving

the Engagement hot, ſent off 1500. ſeamen to reinforce his party, but the *French* firing furiouſly from behinde their ſhips, and battery, which they had raiſed, flanking the *Dutch* who ſtood naked to their ſhot, and whoſe Canon did them little ſervice, towards the Evening beat them off again to their ſhips, with the loſs of many men, and ſeveral brave Officers, and ſo freed the Iſland at this time from further danger.

De Ruyter after much loſs finding the attempt fruitleſs, left four ſhips to cruiſe thereabouts, and wait the coming of ſome Victuallers expected from *Holland*, and next day ſailed to *Dominico*, there to take in freſh water, which being done, paſſing by *Mevis* and the *Barmoodoes*, and having mutually received and rendered civilities with the *Engliſh* there, made ſail for *Holland*, and about the

latter end of *September*, with little ſucceſs in this expedition, arrived ſafely at home, and *Trump* and *Van-Horn* having by ſeveral deſcents on *Bell-Iſle*, and other parts of that coaſt of *France*, allarmed and vexed the *French*, and plundered the country; and the fleet having after conducted and brought back from *Spain* the Count *Van Horn*, who went to negotiate at *Madrid*, with 18 ſail of the fleet (the reſt being otherways imployed) in the latter end of *November* following, returned likewiſe to the *Texell*.

Now the difficulty of the reducing *Meſſina*, ſo ſtrongly protected by the *French*, requiring much of the care and Forces of *Spain* to be employed in *Sicily*, ſenſibly weakened the Confederates of the States of *Holland* in *Flanders*, where the danger lay at their doors. The States therefore being ſollicited by the Mi-

niſters of *Spain*, that they might either give a neceſſary diverſion to the *French*, who in good earneſt eſpouſed the quarrel, and endeavoured the aſſiſtance of the *Meſſineſſes*, and thereby hinder the progreſſe nearer home; or that they might effectually aid the *Spaniards* to the intire ſubduing of theſe Revolters, and ſo bring over to *Flanders* the *Spaniſh* Forces, and other inſtruments of war employed in theſe parts; In the beginning of 1675. reſolved to diſpatch their ſucceſſeful Admiral *De Ruyter*, with a conſiderable fleet of Men of war into the *Streights*, to joyn the Prince *Monteſarchio* Generall of the *Spaniſh Armada* for the effecting of that deſigne; accordingly about the latter end of *Auguſt*, *de Ruyter* with a fleet of 25. ſail, wyed from *Schonvelt*, and having ſtopt at *Cadiz*, and other places, by the way, in *December* following joyned

ed *Monteſarchio* at *Palermo* with part of his Fleet, and after that he had ſtayed ſome time for thoſe of his Ships which then were returned to *Naples* from *Argiers* under the Command of Vice-Admiral *de Haen*, and received them at the place of Rendevouz: They ſailed all together from *Palermo* to *Melazzo*, where *de Ruyter* having had conference with the Duke of *Ferrandina* the Spaniſh Viceroy of *Sicily*, It was reſolved that the *Dutch* and *Spaniſh* Fleet by Sea, and the Vice-roy by Land ſhould attacque and moleſt *Meſſina*, before that any further ſuccours did arrive there: In order to that, *de Ruyter* being informed of a Fleet of Ships laden with proviſions and neceſſaries for the beſieged who then were in great ſtraits by want, and not like long to ſubſiſt without relief, being at ſea under the Convoy of a ſquadron of Men of

War commanded by the *Sieur de Queſny*, made towards the fare of *Meſſina* to intercept and hinder their paſſage; and whileſt the Prince *Monteſarchio* left with ſome ſhips to guard the mouth of the fare, was ſeparated from the reſt of the Fleet, on the 29th of *January*, 1675. *de Ruyter* encountred the *French* off of *Lipari*, with a fleet not much odd in number to his own, having both between twenty and thirty ſail of Men of War a piece, beſides galleys, fireſhips, and other ſmall craft, and with much courage and bravery engaged them: The *French* received him with no leſs reſolution; ſo that there began a very brisk diſpute betwixt them, which continued all that day and the next, with conſiderable damage to their Ships and rigging, but no great loſſe of men, the fight having been at ſome diſtance: In this

engagement

engagement the *French* loſt one man of War, and two fireſhips, and the *Dutch* one Fregat, which being diſabled in the engagement, as the Galleys were towing of her off for *Palermo*, ſunk, but the men were ſaved. The day following *de Ruyter* being adviſed, that the *Sieur de Queſny* by another way round the Iſland, unperceived by the *Dutch*, had conveyed the deſtin'd ſuccours into *Meſſina*; and foreſeeing well the bad conſequences of the diſappointment, being much diſpleaſed with the ſlow proceedings of the *Spaniſh* grave & Phlegmatick circumſpection, and their conduct of affairs; thought it not convenient further to purſue the *French*, nor to abide longer in theſe quarters, (the ſix Moneths appointed by the States his Maſters for that expedition being now expired) and therefore having rejoyned *Monteſarchio* with his

his eight Spaniſh Men of War, he took his leave of him, in order to his returning homeward.

This ſudden departure threatned by *de Ruyter*, put the Viceroys of *Sicily* and *Naples* in great perplexity, and the Court of *Spain* in much trouble, who judged thereby the buſineſſe of *Meſſina* almoſt deſperate; ſo that all means poſſible were uſed by the Agents of *Spain*, to retain him in theſe parts; and particularly importunate inſtances in *Holland* for the prolonging the time of his Commiſſion, which prevailed.

New Orders from *Holland* being arrived at *Naples*, the Viceroy the Duke *de los Velos*, fearing that *de Ruyter* might paſs without touching there, and ſo miſſe of receiving of his Letters, of ſo great concern to the *Spaniſh* intereſt: ſent off the Dutch Conſul

ſul with ſome Galleys to meet him, and to acquaint him with the will of the States, and to invite him to *Naples*: This occaſioned *de Ruyters* coming to *Naples*, where he was ſplendidly entertained by the Vice-roy; and in viſiting the City treated with the ſame honours as are uſually rendred to his own perſon, but haſtened again aboard. The advice ſent from *Holland* of his Commiſſion renewed, and a re-inforcement of his Fleet promiſed, ſet him at work to animate and puſh forward the ſlow and heavy march of the Spaniards in the execution of their Counſils; and ſo having cruiſed with his Fleet ſome time at *Palermo*, and ſome time at *Melazzo*; and had conference with the Vice-roy of *Sicily*: It was condeſcended on, that *Auguſta*, a place that held for the Rebels, ſhould be inveſted by Sea and Land, and

accor-

accordingly *de Ruyter* with his fleet made haſte for the *Bay of Auguſta*, a place to him too fatal for ſo famous a name; whileſt he was there, intelligence was brought him, that the *French* were at Sea; whereupon that night he ſailed, and next morning got ſight of the Enemy, they being about the Cape *Spartivento*, and he himſelf with his fleet three Leagues from *Auguſta*: The morning was calm, ſo that he could not come up with the Enemy, but in the afternoon a freſh gale blowing from S. E. brought both fleets nearer together: *De Ruyter* being in the Van, the *Spaniards* in the body, and Vice-Admiral *de Haen* in the Rear of the fleet, which beſides the *Spaniſh* conſiſted but of ſeventeen *Dutch* Men of War, with other galleys, fireſhips and ſmall craft; They bore down with great eagerneſs upon the *French*, conſiſting of thirty Men

Men of war, and ſeven fireſhips, with galleys, and other Tenders: About four in the afternoon the fight began, and laſted till ſeven, with obſtinate reſolution and courage, betwixt the *Dutch* and *French*, who ſuſtained the whole brunt of this Engagement; for the *Spaniſh* did but little, only kept themſelves out of harms way, and did what miſchief they could at a diſtance.

The *Dutch* had in this Engagement three Ships ſo diſabled as to be towed off, and one Captain killed, but ſmaller loſſes are undiſcernable when the great *De Ruyter* fell; For here it was that preſſing the *French* at the latter end of the Fight, ſo as to make them give way; a bold bullet from the Enemies Fleet ſtopt him in his carreer; which having carried away part of his left foot, and broke his left leg above the ancle, threw him on the deck,

ſo

ſo as by his fall he was wounded in the head : The Fleet hereupon ſlackened ſail , and ſtood for the Bay of *Syracuſa* : The wounded General was carried aſhoar for the more conveniency of cure ; which then did not ſeem deſperate, but the greatneſs of his minde unacquainted with ſuch checks of fortune , encreaſed ſo that diſtemper of body ; which it patiently bore, that the nineteenth of *April* having been ſpeechleſs a day before, between nine and ten of the Clock at night , in the Seveniteth year and Second Moneth of his Age, at the firſt violent ſummons of Fortune ; yeelded his laſt Duty to Nature ; and as he had lived, died in the embraces of beloved honour.

This his Death , as it filled his friends and Countrey with grief and lamentation , and all men with pitty and regret, ſo being

being a loſſe great enough to caſt the ballance of advantage even to the moſt forlorn and deſpairing ſide; gave the *French* a Victory not equalled by their confederate Adverſaries, unleſs when laſt year Triumphant *Turene* the only Paragon of his worth and fame, upon a different Stage, played his laſt Act: which two great Champions much unlike in their Original (the one being born to a great ſhare of his honour, and the other to make all his own,) did ſo reſemble each other, in the courſe of their Lives and Fortune, and manner and Circumſtances of dying; that it ſeemed nature had framed them for two Subjects whereon Fortune might ſhew her skill, in diſpencing equally her inclinations to great and powerfull adverſaries in the higheſt pitch of competition. For as either had been the conſtant

Favourite

Favourite of their reſpective Maſters, and the often and long experieneed prop of their Victorious hopes; the one at Land, and the other at Sea, ſo both fell by an interchanged great Shot, in ſuch a point of time, when their actions gave great hopes and confidence to their ſeveral Parties; and their death was attended with remarkable and dangerous conſequences to either ſide: and had Fortune proceeded from the beginning, and ſhould ſhe ſtill continue with ſo even and impartial a hand in all the occurrences and tranſactions, of this formidable war; both parties might have occaſion to celebrate their triumphs with tears, and with drawn ſtakes ſit down, and mutually confeſs, that

Fare ſumus ergo pares.

De Ruyter was a perſon (as moſt brave men have been) of a middle ſtature, a ſtrong and well compacted body, not fat, but fleſhy, of a gracefull and majeſtick countenance, his aſpect pleaſant and chearfull, not terrible by too much fierceneſs, nor by too great mildeneſs unawful; of a complexion ſanguine, and a conſtitution temperate and healthfull; ſober in his diet, and moderate, though free in his words; neither ſullen with rigid and moroſe reſervedneſs, nor by loquacity affected or vain; his geſtures manly and natural; and generally of a frame of temper ſo even and harmonious, as rendred him ſedate and conſtant, and altogether free from the miſtakes and waverings that accompany fickle and light natures, in the greater viciſſitudes of fortune: He advanced to the height of Honour by the regular ſteps

of

of merit and patience, never importuning his deſtiny by untimely and precipitant ambition; nor ſlighting or being out of the way when Fortune called him to preferment: which he conducted by ſuch wiſe and prudent meaſures, as made him acceptable to all; not ſtaining the reputation of his great actions by vain-glorious oſtentation, and overweening pride; but by being dutiful to his ſuperiours, reſpectfull to his equalls, gratefull to his benefactors, affable and courteous to his inferiours; and in a word, obliging to all: he gained the love and eſteem of all that knew him; entertaining even the meaneſt of the acquaintances of his low eſtate with that civility, that if in the top of honour, they enjoyed not the ancient familiarity of his baſer fortune, they eaſily ſaw, that it was his place and dignity, and

not

not the change of humour, that altered the ſtile. *In fine,* he was ſo good a man, ſo devout and pious a Chriſtian, ſo ſtout a Souldier, ſo wiſe, expert, and ſucceſsfull a General; and ſo faithfull, truſty, and honeſt a Lover of his Countrey, that he deſerves juſtly to be recommended to Poſterity, as an ornament of his Age, the darling of the Seas, and the delight and honour of his Countrey.

FINIS.

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